GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6411
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
INADEQUATE POST AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are inadequate post and telegraph facilities in Orissa;

(b) the targets fixed for the expansion and upgradation of Post and Telegraph network in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of such Gram Panchayats/Block development areas in Orissa where said facilities have not been provided as yet; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir. The average population and area served per post office in Orissa are 3818 and 19.14 Sq. Kms. respectively against the national average of 5477 and 21.32 Sq. Kms.

(b) The targets fixed for the expansion and upgradation of postal network in Orissa during the first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan are as under :

Plan Year	Targets Extra Departmental Branch Post offices	Targets Departmental Sub Post offices	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras
1997-98	27	2	Nil
1998-99	10	2	20
1999-2000	14	2	30

The targets for remaining two years are yet to be finalized.

(c) All Gram Panchayats/Block Development Areas in Orissa are being provided postal facilities through post offices/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras or from nearby post offices. Out of 5254 Gram Panchayats, 5076 are having post offices and 85 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, leaving only 93 Gram Panchayats without having a post office or Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

(d) Post offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance.

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM

(a) No, Sir. Adequate telegraph facilities are available in Orissa. There are 30 telegraph offices and 3555 combined offices working in the State.

(b) to (d): No specific targets have been fixed for setting up of Telegraph offices during Ninth Five Year Plan in Orissa. There are 1699 Gram Panchayats and 7 Block Development Areas where Telegraph facilities are not available. As per the policy of the department, each village is to be provided with public telephone facility by March 2002. Public telephones opened in Post Offices are used to provide Telegraph facility on Phonocom.